

JAMES AND JANET CAMBELL WATSON

James Watson was born November 11, 1821, at Fifeshire, Scotland, and about 1845 married Janet Cambell in Fifeshire. They

were the parents of nine children, Thomas, William, Margaret, Agnes, Jessup, Sarah, Christina, James and John. He died February 18, 1896, at Heber, and his wife died February 15, 1899, at Center.

James received a common school education, but at an early age he went to work in the coal mines, continuing in that vocation up to the time he left Scotland to come to America. Shortly after his marriage he and his wife joined the Church and became very zealous advocates of the doctrines of the LDS Church. They had a great desire to leave Scotland for the Church headquarters in Utah. In 1855, with their four children, they sailed for the United States from Liverpool. After landing in America they traveled to Pennsylvania, where James worked in the mines to help them on their journey West.

They moved farther West to Illinois, working again to help save for the long trip across the plains. In 1861, when the Civil War broke out, they left for Florence, Missouri, and joined the William Asper company for Salt Lake City.

Arriving in Utah, they visited with friends a few days and then came to Heber to the home of their old friend, Thomas Nicol, who received them gladly.

James took up land northeast of Heber, and with the help of his family and friends he built a good log cabin and moved in before winter. In time he cleared the land, raised good crops, got the fences and ditches all in good shape, and soon had a fine farm. A few years later he replaced the log cabin with a substantial sandstone home.

He was an earnest, faithful worker in the Church, holding the office of High Priest, and was considered strictly honest and honorable in his dealings with others.

Janet Cambell was born September 30, in Scotland. One day the mine caught afire 1825, in Fifeshire, Scotland.

As a girl, Janet worked in the coal mines and she was the last person to be drawn up from the mine, in a bucket.

When James and his wife heard the message of Mormonism they joined the Church, but were disowned by their families. They came to America in 1855 with four small children. Shortly after sailing, their baby, Agnes, was stricken with smallpox. James

500

1108

had to stay with her in the hold of the ship throughout the voyage, but she survived. Later a baby died in Pennsylvania, where the family stopped to work in the mines before proceeding to Utah. While in Pennsylvania their oldest son, Thomas, was killed by a coal car. After several years they arrived in Utah and settled in Heber. Janet was a kind, unselfish person and shared whatever she had. She had carefully preserved a bolt of sheeting in the family's journey across the plains, but when she arrived in Heber and found many of the people hard-pressed for clothing, she gave most of it away.

She had a life of sorrow, as two more sons died after the family arrived in Heber. Her daughter Margaret and her husband, Joseph Thomas, then died of pneumonia, leaving their nine children to be cared for. Shortly thereafter her husband died. Through all her trials she maintained a cheerful attitude and never became bitter.